

Existing law (R.S. 18:435) authorizes each candidate to have one watcher at every precinct where the office he seeks is voted on in a primary or general election.

Existing law also requires the candidate to file his list of watchers with the parish board of election supervisors at least 10 days prior to the election. Entitles the candidate to have both a watcher and an alternate watcher serve at the same precinct on election day, but provides that they may not serve at the same time.

Existing law further requires that the parish board of election supervisors to promptly issue a commission to each watcher named on a timely filed list of watchers. Prior to the opening of polls on election day, the parish board of election supervisors is to deliver to each precinct a list of the watchers and alternate watchers entitled to serve at the election. A watcher must present his commission to the commissioner-in-charge of the precinct for which he is eligible to serve prior to serving at the polling place.

Existing law (R.S. 18:1486) requires (in part) any person, including a political committee, who receives and accepts any contribution, loan, or transfer of funds, or makes any expenditure in support of or in opposition to: (1) a proposition or question or (2) the recall of a public official in an amount that equals or exceeds \$200 at any time during the aggregating period, to file reports of such contributions and expenditures.

Existing law (R.S. 18:427) provides that if the number of watchers inside a polling place is so great as to interfere with the orderly conduct of the election, the commissioners shall regulate the number of watchers inside the polling place for each precinct so that the election may be conducted in an orderly manner. Requires the watchers to draw lots under the supervision of the commissioners to determine which watchers shall be the first to wait outside the polling place, but requires that the amount of time each watcher spends inside the polling place shall, as nearly as practicable, be equal.

New law retains existing law and further authorizes any person who is supporting or opposing a proposition or question submitted to the voters or supporting or opposing the recall of a public officer and who has filed a report required by R.S. 18:1486 for such election to have one watcher at every precinct where the issue he seeks to influence is voted on in an election.

New law defines "person" as any individual, partnership, association, labor union, political committee, corporation, or other legal entity, including their subsidiaries.

New law is applicable to all elections at which a proposition or question is submitted to the voters, including bond, debt, and tax elections, recall elections, and local option alcoholic beverage sale elections.

New law also provides that the person is to file his list of watchers with the parish board of election supervisors at least 10 days prior to the election and certify that he has filed a report required by R.S. 18:1486. In addition, the person is entitled to have both a watcher and an alternate watcher serve at the same precinct on election day, but the watcher and alternate watcher may not serve at the same time.

Effective January 1, 2000.

(Amends R.S. 18:435(A), (B), and (D))